

A JAPANESE CONSUL'S IMPRESSIONS OF AUSTRALIA

A recent issue of the *Sydney Morning Herald* contained the following interview with Mr. Nakagawa, formerly Japanese Consul in Hongkong:—

Six months ago the Japanese Govern-

ment, recognising the possibilities of an increased trade between this country and Japan, decided to establish a Consulate in Sydney. Mr Nakagawa, who has held the office of Consul since its establishment, returned to Japan by the *Yamashiro Maru* on Saturday. Mr Nakagawa is acting on instructions from his Government, and is not yet informed as to his future position.

in the diplomatic service, not as to his probable successor. The courtesy and business tact of the returning Consul have gained him the respect of a wide circle during his stay in Sydney. On Saturday he gave a *Herald* representative some of the impressions derived from his period of office.

What do you think of the colonies, Mr. Nakajima? asked the representative. The

scene was the deck of the outgoing steamer. It was not easy to obtain a word with the returning Consul. There was too much usual bustle and animation, the usual market-day crowd, the usual diversity of race and colour, invariably a feature of the scene on board an Eastern-going steamer. The Consul was busy in exchanging greetings and saying farewells. Incidentally, Mr.

Nakagawa himself furnished an objection in the contrabated customs of East and West. Hat in hand he acknowledged the courtesies with which the Japs salute each other whether at home or abroad. He nodded to chance acquaintances; he gave the English hand-shake to older associates. He conversed indifferently English or Japanese.

The Consul seemed scarcely to take the drift of the question. 'How have the people impressed you?' said the reporter. 'Are we courteous, intelligent, enterprising, or what?'

Mr Nakagawa did not think 'courteous' was the word. 'You are bluff,' he said. 'In regard to enterprise, that was another matter. There could be no doubt about

the enterprise of the Australians. He only been here six months; but he is satisfied that the people are fully qualified to hold their own with competitive rates. 'You have great pastoral and mineral resources; you have a great future. I think you have won here that you have yet developed.' 'Is the trade between this colony

'I think, as far as I can see, it will be more an import trade to Japan from Australia than of export from Japan out here. What you take from us are chiefly food goods and things of that kind. There is a large market in Japan for Australian wool and frozen mutton. If it is desired, raw products—for example bellow and

—might be sent, and your producers might improve the trade in that direction. The Government is very willing to do trade with Australia. We are on friendly terms with your Government, and would like to be on friendly terms with you.'

'You have been speaking of introducing an Alien Bill,' Mr. Nakagawa went on.

'What we wish is that you would open

'Does not Japanese labour undersell that of Europeans?' Mr Nakagawa was asked. 'Labour used to be very cheap in Japan but it is not now. A large number of industries have sprung up. In fact, the employers of labour at home very

cannot get enough men to do the work it was only lately that one company brought over 50 labourers from Cores. That does look as if there were too many men at home. We want to have the free right to go to Australia and to come into the country, but there is no fear that the labour market will be overstocked. Some of the public men do not seem to understand

objects of our Government. A few months ago it was reported in a Queensland paper that a Japanese military officer had been sent out to Australia. It was said that he had come out to report on the topography of the country. The report was copied in a lot of your influential papers. It is absurd. No Government would do anything so foolish as to send out a man like that.

report on a whole continent. What wish is that you would understand friendly intentions of our people.'

ENDURANCE IN CLUB-SWING
A WORLD'S RECORD ESTABLISHED
Newcastle (Aust.). Duo
The endurance club-swinging conte

twon Jack Griffiths, of Coker, la
Wallsend, and Professor T. E. De
Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, for the
pionship of the world and £50, was br
to a conclusion at the Victoria Thea
midnight on Saturday, when, in acco
with the provisions of the articles
match was declared a draw, both
testants having completed 40

The performers were watched throughout by a representative committee of citizens, and neither of the men received a stroke from start to finish. But Fisher acted in a similar capacity for sixths. The men were fed at frequent intervals throughout the contest, but there was no cessation in swimming whilst the

ing of food. The nourishment comes principally of beef ton, sherry, cysteine, extract of malt, lozenges, &c., the operations creating a good deal of expense. The most trying time experienced by the performers was just before dawn on Saturday. Their faces were frequently sprayed, and a continuous programme of instrumental and vocal solo performance was required.

throughout the night in order to see the contestants. With the approach of morning, however, the appearance of the men wore off, and the men were only as fresh as when they commenced arduous and self-imposed task. Attendance of the public was much on Saturday than on the first day, and the spectators were

and the encouragement given at the completion of each additional hour the effect of spurring the men in the hour of midnight approach. The intense excitement prevailed. G. showed signs of fatigue, but Bax did the last half-hour to a clever exhibition fancy swinging, for which he was applauded. Precisely at 12 Mr. H.

gave the order to cease, and men walked on the stage amid tinuous cheering. Although he has been declared a draw it is a dispute that Bax has proved himself the better man of the two. His exhibition throughout was far more graceful and scientific than that of Griffiths, and

generally conceded that he had demonstrated his superiority. At the conclusion of the contest a protest was lodged by Griffiths on the ground that he had not filled the conditions by swinging at the stipulated speed, but the committee decided that they had no jurisdiction to decide the question. The condition was that the number of revolutions per

er of that
Unit
than

should not be less than 60, but during
greater part of the time both men and
from 60 to 70 revolutions. By the
performance of Ray and Orville
and a record has been established.

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